

2013 CONCORD ANNUAL TOWN REPORT

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PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Commission

Cemetery Committee <u>CPW Administration</u>

Engineering Division Highway & Grounds

Recycling & Waste Water & Sewer

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Frederick E. Macdonald, Chair Carole A. Cushing, Vice Chair Ruth E. Armknecht Bridget S. Rodrigue Kathleen C. Winslow

Concord cemeteries provide not only a place of burial for current and former residents of Concord but also a place for family, friends, tourists and historians to remember, reflect upon and learn from our predecessors. Caring for and maintaining these grounds is of utmost importance and many efforts were made this year to improve the general appearance as well as provide better access for all who visit.

Mowing and clean up services were contracted out to a private company for the second year of a three year contract. This allowed staff to continue a large-scale program of removing and trimming shrubs and trees that has been long overlooked. The Ground's Division tree crew removed approximately ten trees from Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, all of which were either dying or had been severely damaged in previous storms.

A new handrail was installed on the steps at the top of prospect path and an extension added at the base of the pathway leading to Authors Ridge, providing better and safer pedestrian access to these locations. Construction of a culvert at Chestnut Hollow continues to be addressed with the NRC and State agencies and a design is expected soon that should help to alleviate the high water table in this area. Continuing issues with the Melvin Memorial regarding both the secure setting of the rifles and the overall condition of the marble were discussed. It was decided a professional would be hired next year to make recommendations to help preserve this monument.

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The Committee discussed new signage and explored other interment options such as a niche wall for cremated remains. The Committee is proposing that the dog bylaw be amended at the 2014 Town Meeting to prohibit dogs (with certain exceptions) in Town-owned cemeteries.



Surveying for a new granite post and chain fence along Bedford Street was completed in the spring and crews from the Highway Department installed the posts and chain during the summer. This project, funded by CPA and Friends of Sleepy Hollow, now provides a pleasing visual demarcation between the street and the cemetery and is an improvement over the chain link fence that it replaced. This was a major project for Concord Public Works and involved all divisions.

(Photo Credit: Anna Trout)

Memorial Day and Veteran's

Day ceremonies were once again held at Sleepy Hollow honoring all those interred here as well as Concord's service members who never returned.

Statistics

During 2013, there were 91 interments at Sleepy Hollow. 37 were full burials and 54 were cremations. Of the interments, 41 were Concord residents. Lot sales for the year totaled 56, with 5 of these being sold to eligible former Town residents.

Friends of Sleepy Hollow

The Friends of Sleepy Hollow is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote the preservation, beautification and appreciation of the historic burial grounds in Concord. Additional information can be found at www.friendsofsleepyhollow.org (http://www.friendsofsleepyhollow.org).

This year the Friend's partially funded a marked gravestone for the Peter Hutchinson lot and the installation of the new fence along Bedford St., added a bronze plaque to the Civil War cannon that they

had refurbished in a prior year, and continued to maintain the flowers at the entrance to the Cemetery at Prichard Gate.



Tree Warden Peter Flynn assisted the Garden Club with a tree planting on Monument Square Green to mark Arbor Day.

(Photo Credit: Anna Trout)



Intersection upgrade at Thoreau and Main streets to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

(Photo Credit: Anna Trout)

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